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CLAIMS

1.   A method of operating a networked device, including:

receiving token-compressed messages;

5   recognising in the received token-compressed messages incoming simple device description query messages requiring a simple device description response from the networked device, without decompressing the incoming messages; and

sending a simple device description message (230) including a device 10   type as a response to an incoming device query message requiring a simple device description response.

2.   A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of sending a simple device description includes reading a predetermined simple device 15   description from a memory (14) in the networked device and sending the predetermined simple device description.

3.   A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the networked device is part of a wireless network and the steps of receiving token- 20   compressed messages and sending the simple device description use wireless signals.

4.   A networked device, comprising

a transceiver (8) for sending and receiving token-compressed human 25   readable messages; and

a message handler (26, 182) arranged to carry out the steps on incoming token-compressed human readable messages of: recognising received device query messages requiring a simple device description response from the networked device, without decompressing the incoming 30   messages; and sending through the transceiver a simple device description including a device type as a response to an incoming device query message requiring a simple device description response.

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5.   A networked device according to claim 4 further comprising a memory (14) storing a predetermined simple device description message precompressed from human readable format, wherein the message handler is
5   arranged to read the predetermined simple device description message from the memory and send it through the transceiver in response to an incoming device query message.

6.   A system, comprising:
10   a plurality of networked devices (2,4) each having a transceiver (8) for sending and receiving network messages;
at least one networked device (2) arranged to send a simple device query message to other devices and to receive and interpret simple device description messages subsequently received from the other devices;
15   each of the networked devices (2,4) being arranged to respond to an incoming simple device query message from another of the devices by sending a simple device description message (230) of defined length including a device type value representing the type of the device; and
wherein the plurality of networked devices include at least one simple
20   device (4) without the capability to decompress messages and interpreting directly compressed messages and at least one complex device including a message decompression arrangement (184) for decompressing the messages and a message interpreter for interpreting the decompressed messages.

25   7.   A system according to claim 6 wherein the or each simple device (4) further includes a memory storing a predetermined simple device description message precompressed from human readable format, wherein the message handler is arranged to read the predetermined simple device description message from the memory and send it through the transceiver in
30   response to an incoming device query message.

8.   A system according to claim 6 or 7 wherein the networked devices include at lest one device includes a message decompression unit arranged to decode messages and to act on the decoded messages.

9.   A computer program product, comprising

code for receiving token-compressed messages;

code for recognising in the received token-compressed messages incoming simple device description query messages requiring a simple device description response from the networked device, without decompressing the incoming messages; and

code for sending a simple device description (230) including a device type as a response to an incoming device query message requiring a simple device description response.